

THE MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE.

INTRODUCTION.

It seems appropriate in presenting the fiftieth annual report of the Montreal Board of Trade, that the Council should make some departure from the usual routine in order to take a glance over the past history of the city and a comprehensive view of its present position. This task is indeed in itself most interesting, for Montreal is at once so new and so old—its history recalls memories of so many distinguished men, not in commerce only but in politics and in religion—it recalls so many remarkable events in the annals of our country, that it is difficult to compress the narrative within the limits of the space allotted. The Council, in carrying out this design, has prefaced its usual annual report with some short sketches of the commercial life and history of Montreal and illustrated them with a few explanatory maps and plates.

The Montreal Board of Trade is the outgrowth of an earlier institution—the Committee of Trade—which was organized in 1822. Work on the Lachine Canal had been commenced only the year before. The first sod was turned by the Honourable John Richardson on July 17th, 1821, and the same able and public-spirited merchant presided on April 11th, 1822, at the preliminary meeting which gave birth to the Committee of Trade. His is a bright name in the annals of the city. The

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of Trade, 1822.